

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (Twice Amended) A method of providing media to a plurality of in-room systems from a head-end system remote from the plurality of in-room systems, said method comprising the steps of :

storing a plurality of acquisition media at each of the in-room systems each of the  
5 acquisition media having stored thereon, at least one of audio and video data;

storing a plurality of access-only media at the head-end system, the access-only media comprising at least one of audio and video data identical to that stored on the acquisition media;

at each in-room system, providing access to each of the access-only media, such that the access-only media is played by the head-end system and is at least one of audibly and visually  
10 presented at the in-room system to assist an in-room system user in media acquisition choices;  
[and]

[recording the acquisition of any of the media at the head-end system.]

at the in-room system, sensing the removal of one of the acquisition media;

upon sensing the removal of one of the acquisition media, activating a check-out timer

15 and storing an acquisition signal encoded with a room identifier and a media acquisition  
identifier at the in-room system;

monitoring the in-room system for the return of the removed acquisition media; and

✓ if the media is not returned within the check-out time allotted, transmitting the acquisition  
signal to the head-end system and processing the acquisition signal to determine any charge  
20 associated with the acquisition.

14. (Amended) The method of claim [12] 1 wherein the step of processing the acquisition signal comprises the steps of:

storing an acquisition price look-up table at the head-end system; and

charging the user the price associated with the acquisition.

18. (Amended) The method of claim [16] 28 wherein the step of processing the access signal comprises the steps of:

storing an access price look-up table at the head-end system; and  
charging the user the price associated with the access.

24. (Amended) The method of claim [22] 29 wherein the step of processing the access signal comprises the steps of:

storing an access price look-up table at the head-end system; and  
charging the user the price associated with the access.

25. (Amended) The method of claim [21] 29 wherein the access-only media comprises audio data.

26. (Amended) The method of claim [21] 29 wherein the access-only media comprises audio/video data.